



Thursday, April 30, 2009

## Vulcan High School Linking to International Space Station

Students from Palliser Regional Schools will have a chance to speak directly to astronauts aboard the International Space Station during Canada's first Expedition Mission in 2009. Canadian Space Agency astronaut Dr. Robert Thirsk, the first Canadian to spend six months in space, will answer science and technology-related questions from participating students in real time. The event will be hosted from County Central High School in Vulcan.

This event builds on Alberta Education's Memorandum of Understanding with the Canadian Space Agency that provides a framework for science and technology activities for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students and for pre-service teachers. The Canadian Space Agency's educational programming also supports the government's priority of increasing student participation and completion rates in math, science and technology.

More information on Alberta's International Space Station Event is available online at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/technology/csa.aspx>.

## Budget 2009 and the Alberta Education Business Plan 2009 – 2012

Key Strategies related to technology include:

**1.1** Develop programs of study and acquire learning and teaching resources in English and French, ensuring that they are responsive to the needs of diverse students in a global context; focus on essential competencies including critical thinking, problem solving and creativity; and maximize the impact of emerging technologies on improving education.

**1.3** Enhance student opportunities and awareness of career options in the health and wellness, technology and science sectors through expanded partnerships and innovative career and technology studies delivery models.

**1.7** Collaborate with the education sector to develop future directions for the distributed learning strategy.

**1.8** Sustain access to learning opportunities for students in rural areas.

**1.9** Work with school authorities to promote and disseminate innovative learning and teaching approaches through increased access to classroom technologies.

**4.1** Enable parents and the public to access timely, accurate, relevant and meaningful information about the benefits, improvement and achievements of Alberta's education system.

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tech news is an electronic newsletter for Alberta's education community. It is produced by Alberta Education, Stakeholder Technology Branch.

Send your questions, suggestions, or article submissions to [tech.news@gov.ab.ca](mailto:tech.news@gov.ab.ca).

Next edition: May 2009

#### LINKS:

Alberta Education website – Technology section

LearnAlberta.ca website

Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning initiative website

Technology and High School Success initiative website

Supporting Innovative Schools initiative website

**Government  
of Alberta** ■

## Specialized Website for Students with Vision Loss

Alberta students with vision loss can now access online resources, training and support through the new Vision Education Alberta website at <http://www.vision.alberta.ca/>.

The website is a unique place for Alberta students with vision loss, their families, classroom teachers, educational assistants, vision teachers, other vision specialists, and education stakeholders to access important information, including:

- News and upcoming events;
- A loan catalogue for alternate format materials, including Braille, large print, audio and e-text;
- Video training clips for specialized equipment; and
- Other educational resources.

Beginning in fall 2009, the site will also feature an interactive discussion board for teachers, vision teachers and specialists to ask questions and share information with others across the province.

## Inspiring Education: A Dialogue with Albertans

You can help to shape education in Alberta and help the government reach a clear understanding of what it will mean to be an educated Albertan 20 years from now. *Inspiring Education: A Dialogue with Albertans* is seeking ideas, suggestions and points of view from Albertans in all parts of the province. This initiative is a dialogue that is open to all Albertans, to listen and contribute to the conversation about what education is and what education means.

There are a variety of ways to participate in this dialogue. For more information, visit <http://www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca/>.

## Secondment Opportunities at Stakeholder Technology Branch

Stakeholder Technology Branch is recruiting for two secondment opportunities. Click on the position title for a full copy of the position posting.

- The Project Manager – Technology Research will manage a portfolio of research projects, including the Emerge One-to-One Laptop Learning initiative; and
- The Project Manager – Technology Implementation will manage a range of projects and activities that involve leading-edge technologies and practices to support innovation within the learning system and promote the effective use of technology in K-12 schools and in the ministry.

The secondment positions will commence no later than August 17, 2009 and will run to August 31, 2011. For further information regarding these opportunities, contact Dr. Bette Gray, Director, Stakeholder Technology Branch, at [Bette.Gray@gov.ab.ca](mailto:Bette.Gray@gov.ab.ca) or by phone at (780) 427-1509.

The closing date for applications for both positions is May 22, 2009.

## Career and Technology Studies Update

### Planning Considerations

With the implementation of the revised Career and Technology Studies (CTS) program, school authorities will need to consider the September 2009 implementation of the revised Business, Administration, Finance and Information Technology (BIT) and Trades, Manufacturing and Transportation (TMT) strands. In September 2010, the remaining three strands of Health, Recreation and Human Services (HRH), Media, Design and Communication Arts (MDC) and Natural Resources (NAT) will be implemented.

### Reporting Information

The submission of the report for spending in 2008/2009 will assure the payment of the next funding allocation. Information

about the Career and Technology Studies (CTS) Equipment Evergreening and Enhancement Fund and the reporting document are available on the Alberta Education website at <http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/cts/news.aspx> as well as in the *Funding Manual for School Authorities 2009-2010* on the Education website at <http://education.alberta.ca/admin/funding/manual.aspx>.

## Centre for Global Education

On April 15, 2009, Edmonton Public School's Centre for Global Education held its grand opening. The Centre's programming focuses on peace and global education, higher level learning and research. The three main programs are:

1. *The Alberta Virtual Classroom*: bringing students and researchers together to collaborate, challenge and celebrate learning.
2. *The Videoconference for Hope*: bringing schools together to raise funds and awareness for the plight of education in developing countries.
3. *The Four Nations Classroom*: acting as a coordinator, matching countries from almost every continent on earth for a series of meaningful encounters.

The Centre uses videoconferencing and an interactive student portal that is a unique blend of Web 2.0 tools that facilitate student interaction and higher level learning.

For more information, contact Terry Godwaldt at [terry.godwaldt@epsb.ca](mailto:terry.godwaldt@epsb.ca).

## International Project on 21st Century Assessment

### Press Release:

PISA, TIMSS Join Forces with Cisco, Intel and Microsoft to Develop Next Generation of Assessments  
[http://www.latwf.org/latest\\_news-3.html](http://www.latwf.org/latest_news-3.html)

### Policy Brief - Transforming Education: Teaching and Assessing 21st Century Skills:

Outlines the goals, five working groups and opportunities for involvement.

[http://www.latwf.org/docs/Assessment\\_Policy\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.latwf.org/docs/Assessment_Policy_Brief.pdf)

### Assessment Call to Action:

Presents the rationale for the project, reviews the current state of the art in the assessment of 21st century skills, identifies the current barriers and problems in developing transformational 21st century assessments, and provides an action plan.

[http://www.latwf.org/docs/Transformative\\_Assessment--A\\_Call\\_to\\_Action\\_and\\_Action.pdf](http://www.latwf.org/docs/Transformative_Assessment--A_Call_to_Action_and_Action.pdf)

## Research Articles

### Empowering the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Superintendent – 2008

This report contains information for Superintendents and technology leaders on the following five themes:

1. Strengthen District Leadership and Communications
2. Raise the Bar with 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
3. Transform Pedagogy with Compelling Learning Environments
4. Support Professional Development and Communities of Practice
5. Create Balanced Assessment

The document can be found at <http://superintendentempower.org/download/COSNSuptToolkit3.11.pdf>. The CoSN website, <http://www.superintendentempower.org/>, has supporting details and links.

## Upcoming Events

### JTC Meeting

May 13, 2009 at Fantasyland Hotel in Edmonton

This event is open to Jurisdiction Technology Contacts and invited guests only.

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